

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 00306 141914Z

62

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TAGS: OEXC, ASEC, PDIP GH

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATIN AGAINST PROGRAM WITH AMSPEC KUNITZ

REF: ACCRA 01118

1. A DEMONSTRATION BY 35-40 MEMBERS OF NATIONAL UNION OF GHANAIAAN STUDENTS BROKE-UP A POETRY READING BY AMSPEC STANLEY KUNITZ AT U/GHANA JANAURY 13. THE PROTESTERS, AMONG THEM MEMBERS OF THE NUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CLAIMED KUNITZ WAS CIA AGENT AND ACCUSED USIS OF BEING CIA FRONT.

2. DEMONSTRATION FOLLOWED CALL BY NUGS FOR STUDENTS TO BOYCOTT PROGRAM, WHICH HAD BEEN ORGANIZED BY GHANA ASSOCIATION OF WRITERS. SOME 80 PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS CROSSED LINE OF 10 NUGS MEMBERS WHO STOOD AT ENTRANCE PRIOR TO PROGAM TO DISSUADE THE PUBLIC FROM ATTENDING.

3. DEMONSTRATORS CAME ON STAGE TWICE DURING PROGRAM. ON FIRST OCCASION GAW PRESIDENT ATUKWEI OKAI, WHO IS ALSO UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, PERSUADED THEM TO LEAVE. THE SECOND TIME, THOUGH, THEY CAME IN GREATER NUMBERS AND STAYED UNTIL OKAI DECIDED TO CALL OFF PROGRAM.

4. WHILE ON STAGE DEMONSTRATORS CHANTED SLOGANS LINKING USIS AND CIA. ON SPEAKER ALSO DENONUNCED ALLEGED USAID TIES TO CIA.

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PAGE 02 ACCRA 00306 141914Z

5. AUDIENCE REACTION TO PROTESTERS WAS HOSTILE BUT PEACEFUL.

SEVERAL STUDENTS DENOUNCED THE DEMONSTRATION FRO FLOOR, BUT NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO STOP IT. ACAA, REPRESENTING USIS AT FUNCTION, SENT FOR VICE-CHANCELLOR WHO PROMISED TO COME BUT FAILED TO SHOW UP. POLICE WERE ALSO CALLED AND ARRIVED AFTER MEETING ENDED.

6. DEMONSTRATION WAS NOISY BUT NON-VIOLENT. NEITHER ACAA NOR KUNITZ WAS THREATENED. HOWEVER, ACAA'S CAR WAS POUNDED BY DEMONSTRATOR WHEN HE LEFT CAMPUS. DEMONSTRATORS THREATENED TO INTERRUPT KUNITZ PROGRAM IN KUMASI LATER IN WEEK BUT DID NOT MENTION PROGRAM SCHEDULED AT USIS CENTER JANUARY 15

7. KUNITZ WAS CALM THROUGHOUT THE DISTURBANCE. LATER HE TALKED WITH SEVERAL STUDENTS IN HIS HOTEL ROOM, AND FOUND THEM EMBARRASSED AND APOLOGETIC. SEVERAL STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS ALSO APOLOGIZED TO ACAA.

8 COMMENT: PROTEST WAS MOST PROBABLY FOLLOW-UP TO NUGS-ORGANIZED MEETING LAST WEEK (REPORTED REFTEL. THERE USIS WAS ALSO DENOUNCED FOR CIA LINKS AND FOR PART IN QUOTE NEO-COLONIALIST PENETRATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES UNQUOTE. APPARENTLY KUNITZ, A MOST UNLIKELY CIA OPERATIVE AT AGE OF 73, WAS FIRST CONVENIENT TARGET ON CAMPUS SINCE MEETING. POST ANTICIPATES NO LONG-TERM EFFECT ON USIS OPERATIONS HERE.
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